

THRIVE

Prideful or Peaceful | Small Group Questions | Week of 01/21/18

Getting Started | On Sunday we heard about a man who overestimated what duct tape could do. He made a boat out of it. The Coast Guard had to save him from his 'boat.' What's something that you recently failed at making or fixing?

The Big Idea | Jesus promises his disciples greater understanding and affirms their faith and love (vss.25-28). Though this was designed to encourage their hearts, it seems to have inflamed their egos. They develop an unhealthy perspective and dependence on their understanding, faith, and love of Jesus (vss.29-30). Jesus confronts their pride for the sake of their peace (vss.31-33).

Digging Deeper | (*Read John 16:25-33*)

1) Read and compare verse 25 with 29 & 30. It appears that the disciples are contradicting, and maybe even correcting what Jesus just said about them. Where is that in the passage? And why would they do this?

2) Though Jesus speaks affirming words to these men in verses 25 & 26, it should have deeply humbled them.

a) What in verse 25 should have humbled them?

b) What in verse 26 should have humbled them?

c) Are there any applications to be made for us from these two verses?

3) We tend to think we know more about the basics of life than we do.

a) What are some of those basic issues and discuss the different ways people think about them?

b) The Bible says that we are *really bad* at understanding those basics of life, especially who God is (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:14). If we really believed that, what are some good and bad ways we might respond?

4) Just like we can have too much faith in our understanding, we can have too much faith in our faith and love. Pastor Jake spoke of a number of areas where our faith can subtly get redirected off of Jesus. Discuss how our faith can get misdirected in these areas:

- From Jesus to a list of dos and don'ts.
- From Jesus to spiritual highs and subjective experiences.
- From Jesus to self-esteem and a good life.
- From Jesus to resisting the world and fighting righteous causes.
- From Jesus to knowing true things about God.
- From Jesus to _____. (What else could we add)?

5) Pastor Jake cautioned against placing our faith in our faith, love, and knowledge instead of Jesus. We are not saved *by* any of these things. We are saved *to* these things.

- a) Discuss this statement: *It's Jesus who saves us and not our knowledge/faith/love.*
- b) What role do these things have in our salvation?

6) Jesus ends this upper room discourse telling us that his words should give us peace. Read verse 33. This applies to everything he said, but also to what he just said. Why should Jesus' confrontation of his disciples' spiritual pride set them up for his peace?

Making It Real

7) *Understanding, Faith, Love.* Though we always need help with all three, what's the one that you need God's help with for this season of life? Pray for each other.